**Determination of creamy layer among OBCs**

3153.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the fields/areas in which benefits are available to the OBCs in terms of the orders/instructions of Central Government;

(b) whether such benefits are not available to those falling in the "creamy layer";

(c) the criteria/guidelines for determining the "creamy layer";

(d) whether the basis of "creamy layer" vary in the States; if so, whether Government have information about how the States have determined the "creamy layer"; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The schemes implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of Other Backward Classes are:—

(i) Pre-matric Scholarships of OBC students;

(ii) Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students;

(iii) Hostels for OBC boys and girls;

(iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of OBCs; and

(v) Concessional Financial Assistance through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).

Reservation and other benefits:—

(i) 27% reservation in civil posts and services under the Government of India;

(ii) Relaxed standards in respect of written examination/interview;

(iii) Relaxation in upper age limit in direct recruitment by 3 years; and

(iv) The number of attempts increased to 7 in respect of Civil Services Examination.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the consideration of Expert Committee recommendations, Government of India has enhanced the income limit for determining the creamy layer amongst OBCs from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

(d) and (e) The basis for determining the creamy layer among the OBCs vary from State to State and the States formulate their own guidelines to determine the creamy layer among the OBCs.

**Hostels for SC and OBC Girls**

3154. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels constructed with Central assistance for girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes and OBCs to enable them to pursue higher education, during the last five years ending the 31st March, 2006; and

(b) the places where such hostels were constructed and the investment made for the purpose during the period with the number of students who can be accommodated there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The number of hostels sanctioned, for providing hostels facilities for girls belonging to SCs and OBCs during the last five years ending the 31st March, 2006 is as under:—

| Items | Girls Hostels for SCs | Girls Hostels for OBCs |
|---|---|---|
| No. of Hostels sanctioned | 504 | 192 |

The hostels facilities provided under two separate schemes covering these target groups are expected to enable the SC and OBC boys and Girls to pursue education in middle school, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities.

(b) The places and construction sites are selected by the State Governments/Implementing Agencies including universities and the NGOs.